

THE WINDOW

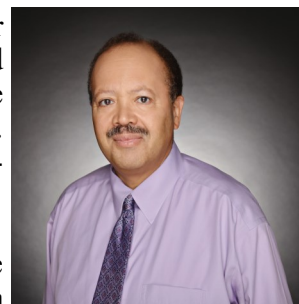
First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

December 2023



This is probably the most difficult thing I've had to write as this is my last newsletter article. As many of you know, I have accepted the position of Director of Music and Organist at First-Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina. I will be with you through the end of the year. This has been a very difficult decision to make. It means leaving a church and the people that I have known and loved for nearly eighteen years. But I believe God is calling me to First-Scots Presbyterian Church.



Saying goodbye to First Presbyterian is hard. I often tell people that I am treated more like a member of the church than an employee. I am not leaving a job; I'm leaving a church and the people that I have been a part of my life for a long time. You have been with me through the good times as well as the not-so-good times. When I came to the church in January of 2006, I had been back in Nashville for only a few months after evacuating New Orleans, Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina. I felt the church embrace me and support me through that difficult time. At the same time, I was taking care of my father who had Alzheimer's. When I brought him to church, you showed him so much love. The church was there for me when my father passed away and many members of First Presbyterian Church came to his funeral. I remember Dad's pastor commenting several times during the service about the number of people from the First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville. You were there to celebrate with me when I married my wonderful wife Allison, and you embraced her the same way you embraced me.

During my time here at First Presbyterian, I feel that I have grown both spiritually and musically. Spiritually because you have taught me the meaning of love and how to love. On many occasions, I have seen this church demonstrate 1 Corinthians 13, the "Love Chapter". Everybody has gone above and beyond the "call of duty" when it comes to taking care of the people. Musically, because I was challenged to do things that I have never done and discovered gifts and abilities that I didn't know I had. In the past seventeen years, we have started a handbell choir, had a concert series, and in the past year done joint musical presentations with the choir of St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church. In the past seventeen years, I have welcomed many to our body as well as said goodbye to many. We have been through our ups and downs, but we walked through it all together.

I have to say that one of the high points of being at First Presbyterian has been the Adult Choir. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with. They have made my job so easy and so much fun. It has been so nice to laugh with them and make music with them. With the Adult Choir, music is fun. In many ways, they are a Connection Group. As we make music together, they also support each other and take care of each other. Thank you for all that you have done over the many years.

And thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. Thank you for embracing and supporting me for the last seventeen years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve here and to be a part of this church. I will miss you, but I will be back to visit. So, this will be a "see you later" not a "goodbye." And if you are in the Charleston area, please look me up.

Tony Williams



Mission of the Month - Angel Tree

Community Child Care



Angel Tree: Once again this year, we invite the congregation to help make Christmas a little brighter for the families at Community Child Care! Gifts should be brought to the church no later than December 17th. Please place the gifts in a gift bag rather than wrapping them in paper. Attach your wish list card to the gifts when you drop them off.

Angel wish lists will be available starting November 26th. You can pick one up after church, or Eva Dye can send you the information (feel free to call, text or email: evadye@yahoo.com; 615-559-3860). Donations are also very appreciated, and we'll do the shopping for you! Please send checks to the church office and designate as Angel Tree.

Introducing our Newest Members



Sarah and Calvin Ice
1350 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Unit 410
Nashville, TN 37208

Welcome Sarah and Calvin Ice. Sarah is a Gallatin native who grew up in First Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Chad, met in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where they attended college. They became a trio in 2011 when Calvin, born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was adopted at 12 months of age. Sarah taught middle school math for nearly 15 years before a mid-life career change; she now appraises commercial real estate and works for a small, family-owned firm in Nashville. Chad is a mechanical engineer of 20 years who divides his time between Vanderbilt University and a start-up company in East Nashville. Calvin is in 7th grade at Explore! Community School. He enjoys improv, taekwondo, and breakdance. They have a 3-year-old golden retriever named Flo who loves naps and rotisserie chicken.



Howard & Debbie Renton
122 Stillwater Trail
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Welcome Howard and Debbie Renton. Howard and Deb are transplants from Michigan and love being in Hendersonville. They look forward to becoming involved in the First Presbyterian congregation. Deb worked as a teacher for 37 ½ years and was lucky to enjoy every day. Her hobbies include anything having to do with water, reading, walking, and spending time with their beautiful granddaughters. Howard's career was in IT and retired from a long consulting job with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. He enjoys swimming, golfing, and being outdoors. They both enjoy spending time with their son and daughter, spouses, and grandchildren (Charlie – 6 months, Abby – 4 months, Josie – 2 years).

The Theology of Hymns



Joy to the World is a favorite of many people. Isaac Watts found church music boring and uninspiring. He was criticized for writing hymns with creativity and energy. He composed over 600 hymns. Joy to the World is inspired by Psalm 98, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice and sing praise." Lowell Mason, a Presbyterian, added the tune. In 1911, the Trinity Choir sang the release and it hit the contemporary music playlist (evidently inspiring the rock

group Three Dog Night to write their version).

As we sing this wonderful carol and walk towards the Christmas celebration, may we acknowledge the Lord's presence, receive him as our King, and make room for him in our busy hearts.



The Sudanese Choir from Gallatin singing at the Presbytery Meeting

Dear Church Family,

Wally and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love and support. You all helped us through some rough days.

The meals, cards, phone calls, visits, and most especially your prayers were greatly appreciated.

We feel blessed to be part of such a loving, caring and supportive church family.

Love and Peace,
Judy & Wally





Sew Many Blessings pieced 50 lap quilts for local nursing homes. Margaret Suhr and Evelyn Kemp are two of the many participants.



Advent Greetings



This Christmas Season may we hear the Angels speaking God's word that we need not live in fear. Listen to the gospel about the good news about God's Son Jesus Christ's birth. Open our hearts to hear the promises that God has made to bring us peace now and throughout the year. Thanks—Missie Colson



As we prepare to welcome the new year, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas: God's gift of His Son to the world. Jesus came to save us from our sins, to show us the way to the Father, and to give us eternal life. He is the reason for the season, and He is the source of our joy. Let us praise Him with our hearts, our words, and our deeds. Let us share His love with our families, our friends, and our neighbors.— Joseph Ottevaere



May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessings and the peace of Jesus' presence be with you and your family always.— Steve Martin



I hope that this advent season will bring you hope, peace, love and joy as you reflect and prepare to remember the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas that you can enjoy with those you love! - Jean Getter



“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God” - (C.S. Lewis)

As we're exchanging gifts this year, may we all be aware of Christmas itself is God's gift to us. So if the Barbie (or whatever else) you were hoping for is sold out, remember that the baby in the manger was the Prince of Peace, the source of joy, and the way, the truth, and the life eternal. What more could we ask for? - Stan Campbell



May the Christ of Christmas bless you and your family.—Pastor Michael Davis

Merry Christmas to you and your family as we celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.— Jack Kurtman



from The Session

"As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas season, I hope we can all take time to reflect on the love, hope, and joy that Jesus brings to our lives. May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with peace and happiness, and may the coming year be filled with many blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!" - Mike Estep

I wish you love and the Peace of Christ during the Advent season as we prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.—John Martin

I hope you and your family will feel God's grace as we all use this time to reflect on the glory of our Savior. Have a blessed Advent season.—Paul Decker

Merry Christmas, Friends! May you be showered with love, happiness and joy throughout the season. I pray that we all feel His Presence and love as we seek His face now and always.—Phyllis Klym

May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.—Diane Swan

Just like the wisemen who had been watching the skies for years, once they found the bright star, they followed it.

- It's the same for us - us usually gravitate toward those who have a bright light - the ones who are always positive, always grateful and always happy in all they do.

- When we see the star may we remember the Light of Christ which gives light and life to all things.

- As we move through Advent to Christmas, be the light for others.

- It's the light and love in me that sees the light and love in you...

-Amy Bish



Reading Through the Bible in a Year: This year there will be daily Bible readings in each monthly newsletter. By this time next year, you will have read through the whole Bible. There will be 4-6 readings each day, except for the weekends. The weekends can be used to catch up or reflect on what was read the previous week. The Old Testament readings are chronological.

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| December 1 | Ezekiel 28-30; John 10 | December 17 | Zechariah 9-11; 1 John 5 |
| December 2 | Ezekiel 31-33; John 11 | December 18 | Zechariah 12-14; Psalm 94, 2 John |
| December 3 | Ezekiel 34-36; Psalm 86; John 12 | December 19 | Ezra 5-6; Psalm 95; 3 John |
| December 4 | Ezekiel 37-39; Psalm 87; John 13 | December 20 | Esther 1-3; Psalm 139; Revelation 1 |
| December 5 | Ezekiel 40-42; John 14 | December 21 | Esther 4-6; Revelation 2 |
| December 6 | Ezekiel 43-45; Psalm 135; John 15 | December 22 | Esther 7-10; Revelation 3 |
| December 7 | Ezekiel 46-48; John 16 | December 23 | Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97; Revelation 4 |
| December 8 | Daniel 1-3; Psalm 88; John 17 | December 24 | Nehemiah 1-3; Revelation 5 |
| December 9 | Daniel 4-6; John 18 | December 25 | Nehemiah 4-6; Psalm 98; Revelation 6 |
| December 10 | Daniel 7-9; Psalm 91; John 19 | December 26 | Nehemiah 7-9; Psalm 140; Revelation 7 |
| December 11 | Daniel 10-12; John 20 | December 27 | Nehemiah 10-13; Revelation 8 |
| December 12 | Ezra 1-2; John 21 | December 28 | Malachi; Psalm 2; Revelation 9 |
| December 13 | Ezra 3-4; Psalm 92; 1 John 1 | December 29 | Job 1-3; Psalm 29; Revelation 10 |
| December 14 | Haggai; Zechariah 1; Psalm 138; 1 John 2 | December 30 | Job 4-7; Psalm 99; Revelation 11 |
| December 15 | Zechariah 2-5; Psalm 93; 1 John 3 | December 31 | Job 8-11; Revelation 12 |
| December 16 | Zechariah 6-8; 1 John 4 | | |

Additional Readings for December:

Job 12-14; Psalm 100; Revelation 13 / Job 15-17; Revelation 14 / Job 18-20; Psalm 141; Revelation 15 / Job 21-23; Psalm 101; Revelation 16 / Job 24-27; Revelation 17 / Job 28-30; Revelation 18 / Job 31-33; Psalm 102; Revelation 19 / Job 34-36; Revelation 20 / Job 37-39; Psalm 103; Revelation 21 / Job 40-42; Psalm 150; Revelation 22



Work Day Photos – On Saturday, October 28, nineteen of us worked at five different member’s homes. We trimmed hedges and trees, pulled out dead hedges, weeded flower beds, trimmed iris’, trimmed sidewalks and driveways with weed eaters, and raked leaves.

SERMON SCHEDULE

December 3 – Holiday Emotions: Anxiety, Luke 1:26-38; 1 Peter 5:7
December 10 – Holiday Emotions: Depression, Jonah 4; Matthew 2:18-25
December 17 – Lessons and Carols
December 24 – Christmas Eve day service will be the same as Christmas Eve
December 31 – Christmas hymn stories



Thru October 2023
Revenue \$ 221,139.43
Expenses \$ 280,928.18
Shortfall \$ - 59,788.75



*Merry
Christmas*





All Saint's Service

Just a reminder: All contributions to be applied to 2023 year-end giving must be in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2023 to be credited to your contribution statement for 2023. Thank you for your continued support of God's work here at First Presbyterian Church.



Once again the Youth attempted to golf under par; that is Frisbee golf.

On Sunday, November 5th we recognized our loved ones who died in the past year. First, the names of church members were read with a bell chime after each one. Then, there was a moment of silence to remember the loved ones before the final bell chime.

Immediately following the service, there was a ceremony in Martin Hall. This was an individual ceremony of writing loved one's names on a piece of paper and lighting a candle. Scripture and prayer booklets were provided.

CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

michael@hendersonvillefpc.org

Dr. Anthony Williams, *Organist/Choir Director*

tony@hendersonvillefpc.org

Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

Sara Webne, *Nursery Attendant*

Carolyn McCoy, *P.D.S. Director*

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



First Presbyterian Church

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Email: linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF!

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holidays!



- 1 - Freda Blackwell
- 4 - Robert Wells
- 8 - Patricia Booze
- 13 - Kay Keck
- 14 - Mary Lou Settle
- 18 - Pat Paisley
Carol Thompson
Jason Elliott
- 19 - Charlie Swan
- 24 - Hal Hubbell
- 28 - Connie Allen
Gracie Davis
Gloria Deaner
- 31 - Taylor Frazier
Tyler Frazier